

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments set forth above and the below remarks.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application: claims 17-20 are allowed; claims 12-13 and 15-16 are objected to; and claims 1-11 and 14 are rejected.

Claims 1-6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over U.S. Patent No. 6,385,462 to Baum et al. Claims 7-8, 10-11, and 14 are rejected under §103 over Baum in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,812,938 to Gilhousen et al.

Applicant believes these rejections are rendered moot in view of the amendments set forth above. More particularly, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12, which are herein canceled without prejudice.

In view of the above, Applicant believes claims 1-4, 6, 9, 13-20 are in condition for allowance and a notice thereof is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigning attorney if there are any questions regarding this Amendment or this application.

Applicant does not acquiesce to any assertion made by the Examiner not specifically addressed herein. Application makes the amendments herein to expedite allowance of certain claims and reserves the right to pursue the originally filed and other claims without prejudice in continuation applications.

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 500845.

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Respectfully submitted,

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